

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 194767
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AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 194767

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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUB: AUGUST 2 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
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LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. BALTIMORE SUN REPORTED THAT "CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 194767

BE WILLING TO SIGN SALT AGREEMENT WITH KREMLIN, EVEN IF ONE
COULD BE REACHED BEFORE NOVEMBER CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS --
WHATEVER POLITICAL COSTS." SUN SAID SECRETARY VANCE MADE
THIS POINT YESTERDAY WHEN HE REPORTED ON SALT NEGOTIATIONS
TO CLOSED-DOOR SESSION OF SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.
SUN POINTED OUT "ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN EXTREMELY SENSITIVE
TO SUGGESTIONS OF POLITICAL FOOT-DRAGGING AT STRATEGIC ARMS

TALKS, AND MR. VANCE'S STATEMENT SEEMED AIMED AT RECENT REPORTS OF ANXIETY TO AVOID CONFLICT BETWEEN ANY TREATY SIGNING AND UPCOMING ELECTIONS. IT HAD BEEN CHARGED THAT, EVEN IF OUTSTANDING SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES COULD BE RESOLVED, ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE IN NO RUSH TO SIGN ACCORD, WHICH IS BOUND TO BE PARTICULARLY CONTROVERSIAL GIVEN BROADER STRAINS IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. TOM RESTON, DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, DECLINED TO EITHER CONFIRM OR DENY REPORTED THRUST OF MR. VAN'C TESTIMONY. BUT HE STATED: 'WE HAVE SAID ALL ALONG THAT WE ARE NOT ESTABLISHING ANY TIME DEADLINES FOR CONCLUDING SALT TREATY. WE ARE GOING TO SIGN TREATY WHEN WE

FEEL WE HAVE GOOD ENOUGH TREATY WHICH PROTECTS AMERICAN SECURITY INTERESTS AND IS VERIFIABLE.'" SUN SAID ONE CAPITOL HILL SKEPTIC, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT WHATEVER PROGRESS WAS MADE ADMINISTRATION WOULD SIGN TREATY BEFORE ELECTION, SAYING IT WOULD CREATE TOO MANY POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR DEMOCRATS SEEKING REELECTION.

2. DON OBERDORFER OF WASHINGTON POST SAID STATE DEPARTMENT REPORTED YESTERDAY THAT U.S. AND USSR HAVE MADE UNEXPECTED PROGRESS TOWARD FORMULATING COMMON GUIDELINES TO CONTROL SALE OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS THROUGHOUT WORLD AND MAY ACHIEVE "CONCRETE RESULTS" IN CRUCIAL NEGOTIATING SESSION LATE THIS YEAR. OBERDORFER REPORTED THAT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HODDING CARTER SAID TEN DAYS OF BILATERAL TALKS IN HELSINKI UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 194767

PRODUCED "GOOD PROGRESS" TOWARD MEETING OF MINDS BETWEEN TWO NATIONS. "CARTER EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NEXT ROUND OF TALKS, EXPECTED IN DECEMBER, COULD BRING ABOUT SUCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS AGREED FRAMEWORK FOR CONTROLLING ARMS SALES AND PERHAPS SOME AGREEMENT ON ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF RESTRAINTS," OBERDORFER REPORTED. POST REPORTER SAID "SOVIET MOTIVES FOR COOPERATING IN DRIVE TO RESTRAIN ARMS SALES ARE MATTER OF DEBATE. ONE OFFICIAL WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN TALKS SUGGESTED THAT RUSSIANS WOULD LIKE TO AVOID FULL-SCALE CONVENTIONAL ARMS RACE WITH U.S. WHICH MIGHT BE BOTH COSTLY AND ULTIMATELY UNSUCCESSFUL, AND THAT RUSSIANS THEREFORE HAVE AN INTEREST IN KEEPING ALIVE U.S. PRESIDENT'S POLICY OF ATTEMPTING TO RESTRAIN OVERSEAS SALE OF WEAPONS."

3. BALTIMORE SUN POINTED OUT "BOTH U.S. AND SOVIET UNION ARE INTERESTED IN CUTTING BACK ARMS DELIVERIES TO AREAS WHERE THEY SERVE NEITHER SIDE'S PURPOSE. IF FRAMEWORK CAN BE ESTABLISHED, THEN GREAT POWERS WOULD TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO REGIONS OF WORLD WHERE RESTRAINT PRINCIPLES COULD BE EXERCISED. ONE POSSIBLE TARGET AREA COULD BE LATIN AMERICA, WHICH, IN CONTRAST TO AFRICA, FOR EXAMPLE,

IS CURRENTLY SEEN AS LOW TENSION REGION." SUN QUOTES U.S. OFFICIAL AS SAYING "IF YOU CAN COME UP WITH SOME ARRANGEMENT INVOLVING BOTH ARMS RECIPIENTS AND SUPPLIERS, IT IS PROBABLY EASIER TO SOLVE PROBLEM."

4. JOHN GOSHKO OF WASHINGTON POST OBSERVED THAT 208 TO 205 VOTE IN HOUSE TO REPEAL CONGRESSIONAL BAN ON SALE OF U.S. ARMS TO TURKEY "MEANS CARTER ADMINISTRATION NOW WILL BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH TURKEY IN SEEKING CYPRUS SOLUTION, FREE OF EMBARGO RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY CONGRESS AFTER TURKEY'S 1974 INVASION OF THAT ISLAND REPUBLIC." GOSHKO NOTED THAT IN VOTE, PRESIDENT "ACTUALLY LOST MAJORITY OF

HIS OWN PARTY IN HOUSE, WITH DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS VOTING UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 194767

AGAINST ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION, 141 TO 130. WHAT GAVE CARTER HIS MARGIN OF VICTORY WAS SUPPORT OF REPUBLICAN MEMBERS WHO VOTED, 78 TO 64, TO LIFT EMBARGO."

5. JIM HOAGLAND OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT SECRETARY VANCE, APPEARING BEFORE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE YESTERDAY, SAID MULTIPLE AIM POINT MISSILE BASING SYSTEM (MAP) WAS ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL OPTIONS UNDER DISCUSSION. QUOTING SENATE SOURCES, HOAGLAND SAID COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE SKEPTICAL IN THEIR QUESTIONING OF MAP SYSTEM. "MULTIPLE AIM POINT CONCEPT RECEIVED WHAT LISTENERS THOUGHT WAS ONLY LUKEWARM DEFENSE FROM VANCE," HOAGLAND REPORTED. VANCE

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